The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 9. NO. 3. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1919. WHOLE NO. 419.

BI GMOONEY STRIKE OPPOSED BY MINERS

Indianapolis, April 12.—Declaring that the United Mine Workers stand ready to co-operate "to the fullest extent in any and every practical movement in the interest of securing justice for Thomas Mooney," the international executive board of that organization has ruled against the proposed Mooney general strike.

"In the first place," says the board, "we wish to point out that the call for this convention was not authorized by the American labor movemnt through the American Federation of Labor and the International Union of the United Mine Workers of America was not officially represented at the Chicago convention and is not bound by any action taken by that body. Our organization cannot consent to participate in a general strike set for July 4, 1919.

"As our membership is well aware, no such strike could be called by our organization without violating the fundamental laws that govern our union and abrogating the joint wage agreement under which we are now bound to observe.

"We are advised that other international unions, operating under similar laws and conditions, have already instructed their membership aganist participating in this general strike.

"We note that the resolution adopted by the Chicago convention contains the following language:

"'We, therefore, submit that no sporadic strike, not properly organized, will be of value.'

"In the very nature of things, any strike called by such a body as this Chicago convention, could not be other than a sporadic strike, which, by their own admission, would be of no value, and therefore could not serve any good purpose, while, on the other hand, it might do incalculable harm not only to the labor movemnt of the country but also to the cause of Thomas Mooney.

"If organized labor of America is to create a vast fund to fight the legal battle of Thomas Mooney, we believe that such action should be authorized by the convention of the American Federation of Labor, and that the funds should be administered by a representative committee of members of affiliated unions, acting under authority of the convention of the American Federation of Labor."

CHILDREN PROTECTED.

Washington, April 12.—In announcing the forthcoming international child labor conference, to be held in this city next May, the children's bureau of the department of labor, in discussing the European delegates, says:

"A recital of the experiences of those who have successfully struggled to protect children under the hardships and anxieties of the war period in Europe and whose countries, in fact, emerged from the war with better laws and higher standards for the nurture and education of children, should certainly be of assistance to the United States. The war has disclosed, perhaps, no greater heroism than that of the civilians of Europe, who, within sound of the enemy guns, labored quietly and faithfully to guard childhood so far as possible, from the suffering attendant upon war. The history of the efforts should prove an inspiration for peace time work to the men and women in America who have the welfare of children at heart."

The above statement is significant when it is recalled how insistent certain elements in America demanded that child labor laws be weakened, during the earlier period of this country's entrance into the war.

TRADE UNION COLLEGE.

Boston, April 12.—The Boston central labor union has started a college where workers may secure an education on any subject they desire. Some of the most notable and liberal-minded educators in the east have become interested in the project and the Boston Globe says:

"Academic freedom will not worry instructors; they will have nothing to fear from not pleasing the donors of the college—because it has no endowment."

The policy of this college will not be shaped "from above," in secret meetings of the faculty—it will be shaped by a committee on which members of the unions sit with the instructors. The final decision in any matter may be referred to the central labor union as a whole.

SUGGESTS NEW ELECTION.

Washington, April 12.—In a controversy between officials of the city of Jackson, Mich., and Fire Fighters' union No. 87, the national war labor board recommends that a referendum vote by citizens be had on the board's wage award.

Last January increased wages and a two-platoon system were rejected by a referendum vote of Jackson citizens and the board now states that "it is not clear that the vote would have been the same as to increased wages had that been the only issue presented."

If the vote is favorable the wage award will date back to last October.

TREATY WILL END WAR.

Washington, April 12.—"Notwithstanding the present armistice between the belligerents," says the judge advocate general of the army, "the war will not be formally terminated until the signing of a treaty of peace."

This opinion was given in a case involving the surrender of some soldiers to the civil authorities to be tried on various charges. According to the judge advocate general the articles of war make it optional with military authorities to turn these soldiers over to the civil authorities.

BRUSH MAKERS GAIN.

Washington, April 12.—The national war labor board has ordered a wage advance of 10 per cent to members of Brush Makers' union No. 25, employed by the Chicago (Ill.) Brush Manufacturing company. The award dates back to November 1, of last year and time and one-half shall be paid for overtime.

WAGE LAW IN EFFECT.

Boston, April 12.—The minimum wage for women employed as cleaners by private employers in office and other buildings, is now in effect. The regulation calls for 30 cents an hour for night work and 25 cents an hour for day work.

RESIST WAGE CUTS.

Washington, April 12.—About [illegible] journeymen tailors have suspended work because of an attempt to reduce wages 20 per cent, increase hours from eight to nine a day and to abolish extra pay for overtime.

UNIONIST PREDICTED ROBBERY OF WORKERS

Albany, N. Y., April 12.—"Dan Harris told you what would happen when you amended the state workmen's compensation law so that employers could make private settlements with injured workers," said Legislative Agent Fitzgerald, of the New York state federation of labor, in a statement on the result of an investigation of this system.

The probe has been conducted by the state and in a report to Governor Smith the investigator says that he has uncovered the rottenest system of robbery of the maimed and helpless that has ever disgraced a state. Women and men, broken and injured, have been systematically swindled for four years past, given $30 or $40 when thousands were due them under the law.

By this robbery of the poor and wretched the insurance companies have cleaned up over $30,000,000 in four years. While the investigator does nat recommend that the private companies should be barred out of the state, he does favor abolition of direct settlements and compel the companies to make restitution.

Regarding this condition, Legislative Agent Fitzgerald says the investigation confirms the wisdom of the state federation of labor at that time, when it opposed the amendment that would permit direct settlements, and calls attention to this statement by Dan Harris (since deceased), who was president of the state body:

"This bill, if it becomes a law, will compel the injured workman, or if killed, his family, to do business direct with the insurance companies' lawyers and agents, who will have the power to make awards. It means the old system of victimizing and robbing the injured and their families."

CAN TAKE AS WELL AS GIVE.

San Francisco, April 12.—The power to give also carries with it the power to take, is the point made by Editor Scharrenberg of the Seamen's Journal, in defending labor's opposition to regulating wages and hours by law.

Several years ago the California legislature enacted an eight-hour law for women and now the Los Angeles laundry proprietors have been working their employes nine hours a day in weeks having holidays. They are asking the state legislature to legalize this policy.

"Fortunately," says Editor Scharrenberg, "the organized laundry workers are well able to maintain their eight-hour day by virtue of collective bargaining and trade agreements. But this incident clearly illustrates that the shorter work day established 'by law' can be lengthened 'by law' without the consent of the workers.

"Those trade unionists who want to regulate the length of the work day and establish wage schedules 'by law' should find ample food for serious reflection in the foregoing."

Sacramento, Cal., April 12.—The state assembly has reversed its action on the bill which was intended to permit employment of women laundry workers nine hours a day in weeks where holidays fall. The assembly now defeats the bill by a vote of 34 to 43.

LAND VALUES INCREASE.

Washington, April 12.—Farm lands in the United States are steadily increasing in value, reports the department of agriculture. The average grade of plow lands was worth about $74.31 per acre on March 1 this year, compared with $63.38 a year ago, $62.17 two years ago and $55.29 three years ago.

The greatest percentage increase during the last year occurred in the south Atlantic states, in the Carolinas and Georgia, and extended to Alabama, Kentucky and Arkansas. Small or no increases were made in the New England states, the Pacific coast states and Louisiana, Texas, Kansas and Montana. Material increases were reported from Nebraska and South Dakota.

Iowa's plowing lands stand first in value, the average being $169 per acre, followed by Illinois with $144; California with $121 and Indiana with $100. Alabama reports the lowest average value at $24 per acre, and Mississipi is next at $25.50.

LIBERTY LOAN FACTS.

Washington, April 12.—Secretary of the Treasury Glass announces the dates upon which payments will be required on the notes of the victory liberty loan as follows:

Ten per cent with application on or before May 10; 10 per cent on or before July 15; 20 per cent on or before August 12; 20 per cent on or before September 9; 20 per cent on or before October 7; 20 per cent on or before November 11, with accrued interest on deferred installments.

Payment in full can be made on May 20, the 10 per cent required with application having been duly paid on or before May 10. Payment can also be completed on any installment date with accrued interest.

BRITISH GROCERS PROFITED.

London, England, April 12.—According to Arthur J. Giles, secretary of the British grocers' federation, profits of the British grocery trade increased about $45,000,000 a year during the war.

"The food controller," Mr. Giles said, "has been the grocers' real friend for the last four or five years, in enabling them to dispose of all their surplus stock, much of which the public would not look at prior to the war. A further great asset was the registration of customers, which insured the grocer a trade without his having to work it up."

LIMIT NIGHT WORK.

Hartford, Conn., April 12.—A house committee has made a favorable report on a bill providing that no female shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment between 10 p. m. and 6 a. m., "provided that in event of war or other serious emergency the governor may, in his discretion, suspend the limitations upon night work contained in this act as to such industries or occupations as he may find is demanded by such emergency."

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Ottawa, Canada, April 12.—Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union No. 5 has secured a 10-months' agreement which increases wages $5 a week for cylinder pressmen, $2 to $2.50 for other members and establishes a 45-hour week for night work at one and one-third the day scale.

WANT AWARD ENFORCED.

New Albany, Ind., April 12.—Electrical workers employed by the United Gas and Electric company suspended work to enforce a wage award by the national war labor board.

BRITISH EMPLOYERS ACCEPTING UNIONISM

Washington, April 12.—If the movement generally described in a loose way as "bolshevism" is to be offset in the United States, business men must quickly revise their ideas regarding the labor question.

This, indirectly, is the meaning of a report submitted by a commission composed entirely of employers who went to Great Britain to study industrial conditions under authorization by the department of labor. Several of the employers are well-known opponents of organized labor, and trade unionists will watch with interest their future attitude toward the labor movement in the United States. The business men on the commission were: E. T. Gundlach, of the printing industry, Chicago; R. J. Caldwell, textile industry, New York; Dorr E. Felt, machinery industry, Chicago; W. H. Ingersoll, watch industry, New York; R. R. Otis, building industry, Atlanta, and Eldon B. Keith, shoe industry, Brockton, Mass. The latter died in London of pneumonia.

The report states that employers in Great Britain generally recognize the desirability of collective bargaining, and that there are many intimations of "direct action" and a complete overturning of the present social structure. "But we believe," says the report, "the more extreme demands are limited to a class that has been thinking and talking along these lines for years.

"The issue, however, is squarely drawn on the demand of the working people to have a better industrial day. They seek not merely small non-essentials, nor common place essentials, but a real step forward in their condition of life and labor."

The commission declares that "the spirit of a genuinely better new (and not novel) era is being fostered by widely varied elements of Great Britain's industrial system."

CROWDED OFF FIRST PAGE.

New York, April 12.—Organized employes of the post office department are crowded off the first page of newspapers with their quarrel with Postmaster General Burleson because of the Postal Telegraph company's quarrel with the postal chief.

Mr. Burleson recently deposed Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal, and several other officials because, he said, they "refused to obey orders." Then Mr. Burleson said wage increases compelled him to raise telegraph rates 20 per cent. Now the organized commercial telegraphers say, "search us for wage increases." Then Mr. Mackay took the center of the stage and averred that Mr. Burleson is in cahoots with the Western Union and he flings a mass of figures at the postal chief to prove his point. Mr. Mackay says "it is absolutely unnecessary" to raise telegraph rates except that "Mr. Burleson has agreed to pay the Western Union more than he should have agreed to and in order to realize that amount he has to raise the rates."

"If Mr. Burleson will return our lines to us at once," continues the Postal man, "we will carry on the telegraph business at the old rates." Mr. Mackay also says that the Western Union is not administered carefully and economically.

But Western Union is saying nothing. It is too busy raking in the shekels and victimizing members of the Commercial Telegraphers' union.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Memphis, Tenn., April 12.—Practically every contractor in this city has accepted the new rates of Painters' union. Wages for painters are advanced 12 1-2 cents, or 75 cents an hour; paper hangers are increased 15 cents, making their rate 80 cents an hour.

The union informed contractors three months ago that they would advance wages, but no attention was given this notice. When 200 painters suspended work the employers got busy.

Boston, April 12.—Painters and decorators have secured wage increases. The new minimum for painters will be 82 1-2 cents an hour and 87 1-2 cents an hour for decorators. The work day will be eight hours for five days a week, making the work week 40 hours.

Toledo, Ohio, April 12.—Organized painters have established their new wage scale, which raises rates from $5 to $6 a day.

WOMEN DEFEAT LENNON.

Bloomington, Ill., April 12.—The votes of women defeated John B. Lennon, candidate for mayor on the Labor party ticket. This rock-ribbed trade unionist was charged by his opponents with being a socialist. Another factor was unlimited boodle for use among the male voters, but this did not prove as effective for Lennon received 143 majority of the votes of the men alone. The total majority against him was 429.

Chicago, April 12.—John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago federation of labor, received approximately 54,000 votes as candidate for mayor on the Labor party ticket out of a total vote of about 688,000. There were six candidates in the field. The party nominated a complete city ticket and conducted a vigorous campaign.

TO PROMOTE DISTRIBUTION.

Washington, April 12.—The bureau of markets, department of agriculture, will conduct a country-wide inquiry into the retail meat business with a view to determining the most effective methods for the introduction of economies and the increase of efficiency in the distribution of meat from the wholesaler to the consumer.

CO-OPS. MAKE GAINS.

Seattle, April 12.—In the last quarter the Seattle Consumers' Co-operative association did a gross business of over $25,000, paid all expenses and declared an 8 per cent dividend. "And we have plenty of cash on hand," declare the enthusiastic co-ops.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN.

Chicago, April 12. — About 300 clerks employed in men's stores in the outlying districts have secured recognition of the Retail Clerks' union, a 54-hour week and a 20 per cent wage increase.

WANT TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

San Antonio, Texas, April 12.—Organized fire fighters are circulating petitions asking that a two-platoon charter amendment be placed on the ballot at the municipal election on May 13.

HARVESTER "UNION" IS USUAL FRAME UP

Chicago, April 12.—The International Harvester company's scheme to adjust differences with employes is the usual frame up, patterned after the Rockefeller "union" and intended to replace bona fide trade unionsim.

President McCormick, of the company, explains the scheme, which centers around a works council, composed of an equal number of employes selected by the employes and representatives selected by the company. The official says any employe may present grievances, which will be considered by the works council.

"Matters which cannot be thus disposed of may, by mutual consent," he says, "be submitted to impartial arbitration."

It will be noticed that the African in this wood pile is the innocent appearing words, "by mutual consent." This means that if the company's representatives refuse to arbitrate, no redress for the employe is possible.

The difference between this frame up and a trade union is: If the men were 100 per cent organized they would tie up the plant on a refusal to arbitrate.

Company press agents will string their shop-worn phrases together in defense of this scheme, but the fact remains that these employes are helpless to make a vital change in working conditions or wages until they unite in bona fide trade unions, control their own affairs and stand behind representatives who are courageous enough to voice their demands.

PROFIT SHARING A MYTH.

Oklahoma City, Okla., April 12.—The editor of a local newspaper is ecstatic over the inauguration of a profit-sharing scheme by a local business man, "who," the editor declares, "belongs to the new order—the order that must make the world safe for democracy if democracy is to be safe for the world."

These lofty sentiments have as much effect on Editor Wilson of the Oklahoma Federationist as the proverbial water on the duck's back.

"It may as well be explained right now, that labor wants none of your profit-sharing or welfare schemes," says the labor editor. He declares that labor wants the right to organize, to bargain collectively and to be paid living wages, "without any of the frills or bonuses that are used to mislead the unwary into the belief that they are receiving something under the head of benevolence or that the boss is a wonderful philanthropic person.

"The nomenclature of profit-sharing is singularly rich in equivocal terms.

"Loyalty.—Is the employe to be wholly loyal to his employer and not first loyal to himself? How loyal is an employer to his furnishers of raw material? He is loyal to them only so long as they sell him what he wants at the lowest market rate?

"Efficiency.—Never to be missed in any lecture or discourse on profit-sharing. This term points to push, grind, and hurry to the exhaustion of the employe, despite its admitted legitimacy up to the point of physical abilities.

"Profits.—Is the withholding of 5 or 10 per cent from the employe's pay envelope during the year and returning it to him at an appointed annual date, a sharing of profits or a mere restitution of withheld earnings?"

WAR ON TEACHERS' UNION.

New York, April 12.—The board of education has denied the use of public school buildings for meetings of the Teachers' union and a second resolution outlawing the organization was sidetracked for the time being when the president suggested the impropriety of being "at once investigators, jury and judge in this case."

The board's edict was instigated by a report of a meeting of the Teachers' union in which free speech and the rights of teachers were discussed. This insubordination was bad enough, but it was claimed that the teachers had declared that members of the board of education were desirous "of suppressing the rights of both teachers and pupils."

Behind the board's opposition, however, is the outstanding fact that the teachers, through organization, are acquiring independence and no longer refuse to look upon members of the board as tin gods.

UNIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Chicago, April 12.—New Brunswick, Canada, is ready for union organization, according to James A. Sullivan, Canadian organizer of the Cigar Makers' International union, in a letter to International President Perkins, of that organization.

"It seems that very few organizers come this far, and I think it is a mistake, as I find this part of the country ripe for organization," says the Canadian trade unionist. He states that in one week he assisted carpenters, teamsters and pulp and paper workers in their organizing campaign, and that the machinists are also active and have increased their membership.

GAINS IN JAMESTOWN.

Jamestown, N. Y., April 12.—An organizing campaign conducted by the central labor council, of this city, is meeting with good success. There have been organized locals of fire fighters, wood workers and teamsters, chauffeurs, stablemen and helpers. The next drive, it is announced, will be made to organize sheet metal workers, iron molders, machinists and blacksmiths. The campaign has also resulted in strengthening practically every local in the city.

DEATH PENALTY RESTORED.

Carson City, Nev., April 12.—Capital punishment has been restored in Nevada by Governor Boyle permitting an amendment to the present murder act to become a law without his signature. The law makes "any kind of wilful, deliberated and premeditated killing murder in the first degree, punishable by death or life imprisonment, in the discretion of the jury."

CENSORSHIP BILL VETOED.

Columbus, Ohio, April 12.—Governor Cox has vetoed a bill which would have given trustees of memorial buildings power to censor utterances made within the institutions by speakers. The governor said he based his veto on the right of freedom of speech and of peaceable assembly.

RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

Boston, April 12.—Leather Workers' union No. [illegible] announces that the large harness making firms in this city have accepted a new wage schedule, which raises wages from $18 to $21 a week and Saturday half holiday the entire year.

GARMENT WORKERS WIN: SECURE 44-HOUR WEEK

New York, April 12.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has won its three-months' strike against the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' association, an organization that had declared unyielding opposition to the union's demands.

The manufacturers have been forced to agree that hereafter when an employe is discharged he will be accorded the right to have his case reviewed by an impartial tribunal. This demand aroused the greatest opposition of the employers who declared that the unionists were attempting to establish themselves in jobs for life.

But the strikers refused to waive this demand and the employers were finally forced to accept it.

Other gains are: A union-shop agreement; a 44-hour week; a wage increase for week workers that ranges from $1.50 to $3 a week, with piece workers to be increased; workers discharged for union activity are to be immediately reinstated with pay for time lost and those unjustly discharged after being employed four months are to be immediately reinstated with back pay. These protections, the unionists show, will make it impossible for manufacturers to victimize any active worker in their movement.

About 12,000 workers are affected by this settlement. The strike originally involved about 40,000 workers, but manufacturers outside of the association settled with the union a few weeks ago.

STRIKE FOR SAFETY.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 12.—Iron molders employed at the plant of the Wheeling Mold and Foundry company suspended work rather than risk their lives with inexperienced cranemen who have taken the places of striking electrical workers.

This company and its iron molders attracted wide attention last September by a decision by Chief Justice Clark of the North Carolina supreme court, acting as umpire for the national war labor board, who declared that while employers and workers were patriotic during the war, the employer received increased profits from the government, while the worker gave to the government.

The umpire said:

"The employers have, as a rule, patriotically given full aid to the prosecution of the war by placing their splendid plants and their highly skilled chiefs at the service of the government. The employes, as a rule, have also, with the same patriotism, yielded the eight-hour limitation wherever it has been necessary to speed up production for the government. The former have received great increase in profit. The latter has contributed an increase in the hours of labor, and vast numbers of men to fill our armies. The former have received from the government; the latter have given to it. They should not be asked to do so beyond the necessity of the occasion."

PASS COSSACK BILL.

Charleston, W. Va., April 12.—The West Virginia legislature has passed a cossack bill, despite the claim that the bill would be modified so that provision would be made for an increased force of deputy sheriffs. The original plan, however, has been jammed through by the coal operators and other interests who will now place the cost of maintaining their strike guards and gun men on the state.

Huntington, W. Va., April 12.—The Times-Dispatch prints an interview with State Senator Luther, who says that advocates of the cossack bill, which has been passed by the state legislature, offered him valuable coal lands in McDowell county if he would support the measure and threatened to drive him out of business when he refused.

"The McDowell county senator charged $85,000 was spent to get the bill through the legislature," says the Times-Dispatch.

ZINC WORKERS GAIN.

Bartlesville, Okla., April 12.—Zinc Smeltermen's union No. 122 has signed a union-shop agreement with the National Zinc company. Seniority rights of workers are protected and where an employe is unjustly discharged he shall be reinstated with full pay during the time lost. Every worker accepting employment at the plant shall agree to the contract between the union and the company and to permit the company "to deduct from my wages my financial obligations to the union as provided in sections dealing with this matter." The eight-hour day is accepted with time and one-half for overtime.

PART-TIME PLAN NOT NEW.

Washington, April 12.—It has been generally assumed by many writers on vocational education that the plan of part-time instruction in the shop and school is an innovation of the twentieth century. Such however, is not the fact. Part-time instruction was not an uncommon thing during the colonial times in America. A bulletin in preparation by the federal board for vocational education shows that the indentures in Philadelphia in the years 1771-1773 very frequently made provision for the apprentice attending either day or evening schools or both.

FURRIERS WIN 44 HOURS.

Long Island City, N. Y., April 12.—Officers of the International Fur Workers' union announce that the 44-hour week has been won in Boston, Chicago and Montreal. A prior statement announced the same condition in New York city. In Montreal, it is stated, the memory of the protracted strike in 1917 moved the employers to compose differences with employes. At one time a strike seemed imminent because of the employers' seeming determination to fight.

VOCATIONAL BOARD ACTIVE.

Washington, April 12.—The federal board for vocational training reports that on March 1 registrations of disabled soldiers for training and placement, or both, totaled [illegible]. Of these, the board states, it has established a working contract with [illegible] cases and [illegible] have been placed in employment.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, April 12.—Teamsters' union No. 174 has secured a new agreement with the Team Owners' association, representing "nearly [illegible] employers. Wages of [illegible] workers are raised [illegible] cents a day.

STRIKE INJUNCTIONS PREVAIL IN FAR WEST

Sacramento, Cal., April 12.—The Flaherty anti-injunction bill, modeled after the Clayton law, has been defeated in the state senate. A similar bill was passed by the legislature, two years ago and was vetoed by Governor Stephens.

The author of the bill is a member of the Cement Finishers' union, San Francisco, and in urging his colleagues in the senate to regulate strike injunctions, answered the claim that it is useless to pass the bill because the governor will veto it.

"Permit me to call your attention," said Senator Flaherty, "to the fact that the present federal immigration act, containing the literacy test for immigrants, was vetoed by three presidents and was finally passed over the veto of President Wilson. And today, as a result of the lessons taught by the war, the American people are fairly unanimous in demanding even more stringent immigration restriction than was urged so persistently for all these years by the American Federation of Labor.

"We ask for this law because no weapon has been used with such disastrous effect against trade unions as the injunction in labor disputes. By means of it the workers have been prohibited under severe penalties from doing what they have a legal right to do. It is difficult to speak in measured tones and moderate language of the viciousness with which unions and trade unionists have been assailed by the injunction, and to the working people of California, and to all fair-minded men, it seems little less than a crime to tolerate it longer.

"I want to assert that the organized people of California ask no immunity for themselves or for any other one who may be guilty of any unlawful act.

"We do maintain, however, that we have a right to insist, and we do insist, that when a workman is charged with a crime he shall be accorded every right, be apprehended, charged and tried by the same process of law as any other citizen of our great state."

48 HOURS IN ITALY.

Milan, Italy, April 12.—The 48-hour movement inaugurated last year in this city by the organized workers has resulted in an agreement with employers in machine establishments, ship yards and allied trades which reduces hours from 60 and 55 to 48 a week. In foundries where continuous work is carried on hours are reduced from 72 to 48 a week by adopting the three-shift system.

Time rates are to be adjusted so that earnings for 48 hours shall be equal to the present earnings for 55, 60 or 72 hours. Piece work rates are to be increased 16 per cent where hours are reduced from 60 to 48 and 10 per cent increase where hours are reduced from 55. Works committees are to be formed whose functions are defined in rules agreed to between the employers and employed. Both parties will be represented on a committee which will investigate the cost of living in relation to the question of a minimum wage. It is estimated that 500,000 workers are affected by this agreement.

Demands for a 48-hour week have been presented by workers in the textile, chemical and paper-making trades.

At a meeting of employers and employed in the printing trades it was agreed that the 48-hour week would be established without a wage reduction.

CAN'T BUST TRUSTS.

Washington, April 12.—Twenty years ago the American Federation of Labor declared, in annual convention, that "we are convinced that the state is not capable of preventing the development or the natural concentration of monopoly."

Now the business men of the country, through the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, have practically accepted this position and by a referendum vote have declared that "congress should be asked immediately to consider the present situation of all statutes constituting our anti-trust legislation."

The chamber of commerce submitted that question to its affiliates and the result is: For anti-trust law changes, 1,542 organizations; against, 51 organizations.

EMPLOYERS WAKE UP.

Toronto, Canada, April 12.—Over 2,000 butcher workmen have been organized in this city, and now these employers admit that hours and wages are not fair, and have established a 48-hour week as a result of conferences with representatives of their employes.

"The hours were too long," said one packer. "We realized the justice of the men's claims and we were not averse to falling in line, as far as was practicable."

The packer, however, made no comment on the 2,000 workers who stood ready to enforce their demands that were ignored when they were unorganized.

BOOKBINDERS UNITE.

Indianapolis, April 12.—The International Brotherhood of Bookbinders secured 304 new members during the month ending March 10. The total membership on that date was 17,411.

Hartford, Conn., April 12.—Local No. 15, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, has secured a new wage scale for women members.

Jacksonville, Fla., April 12.—Bookbinders' union No. 137 is conducting a successful organizing campaign among the women workers in this industry.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Fresno, Cal., April 12.—Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union No. 104 has signed a new wage scale, with newspaper publishers. Foremen are advanced to $6.50 for night work and $6.25 for day work; journeymen, $5.75 for night work and $5.66 2-3 for day work. The old scale was $5 for night and day foremen and $4.50 for night and day work done by journeymen.

WILL TEACH U. S. IDEALS.

Washington, April 12.—The department of labor has created the office of director of citizenship to teach American ideals to alien residents. Details of this educational work have not been developed.

WILL WOMEN UNITE NOW?

Hartford, Conn., April 12.—A house committee has made an adverse report on a bill creating a minimum wage commission for women and minors.

State Workmen's Compensation Differs From Usual "Business"

St. Paul, Minn., April 12.—The state senate has defeated the bill to create a state-controlled workmen's compensation fund.

St. Paul, Minn., April 12.—Because the Minnesota state federation of labor urged the passage of a workmen's compensation law managed by the state, private insurance companies claimed that this is the first step to "put the state into business" and that the state will eventually destroy "private initiative."

This claim was answered by Hon. Asher Howard in a speech before the house of representatives, in which he said:

"This bill simply permits the state of Minnesota to spread this tax over the industries of the state in a fair and equitable manner in order that sufficient funds (and no more) may be collected to pay the benefits the injured Minnesota workmen are entitled to, and if it cannot be justified wholly on the theory of taxation it cannot be justified at all.

"There are some activities which properly belong to the state and this is one of them. The state of Minnesota went much farther in interfering with private business when it established the binder twine and farm machinery plant in the state penitentiary and when it took over the weighing and inspection of grain than it goes here. When the federal government established a farm loan bank system it took one-third of the revenue away from many country banks. When it established the parcel post system it interfered with private business as conducted by the express companies.

"And when you ask me why the state of Minnesota, if it is to render the people of the state the services required under this act, is not equally justified in taking over the grain and milling business, I reply:

"That when your state enters the grain and milling business it is dealing with wheat and flour. Here you are dealing with human flesh and blood—with the tears of little children and the sobs of the widow at the grave of the husband and father whose life was crushed out in order that civilization might enjoy the necessaries and comforts and luxuries of life.

"In the one case you are dealing with a business problem. Here you are dealing with a humanitarian problem that touches every heart that beats in sympathy with suffering, grief-stricken humanity.

"And it is just as right and proper that companies organized for profit should be permitted to collect $100,000,000 for Red Cross purposes, and turn $50,000,000 over to those the fund was intended to benefit, as it is that insurance companies organized for prifit should do that thing in this field.

"Every dollar collected from employers (less the actual cost of administering the fund) should be passed on to the injured workmen or those dependent on the killed."

FAVOR SIX-HOUR DAY.

Indianapolis, April 12.—A six-hour work day and a five-day week, wage increases, nationalization of coal mines and the right to organize and bargain collectively with the government were the principal declarations at the last meeting of the policy committee of the United Mine Workers, which was attended by 175 representatives of that organization.

These recommendations, it was stated, were intended to be a notice to the government and the operators that the coal miners will demand wage increases, instead of reductions, and that they will endeavor to enforce a shorter work day. It was also stated that British miners are now attempting to establish the six-hour day and increase wages, and that Premier Lloyd George has declared that this would place British coal operators in an unfair position to compete with American mines, now operated on an eight-hour basis.

Members of the policy committee stated that if the declarations are made effective they would not only benefit American miners, but British miners as well, because the objections raised by the British government would be removed.

CROOK OR CRAZY?

Knoxville, Tenn., April 12.—W. J. Oliver, of the Oliver Manufacturing company, has been found guilty in a federal court of manufacturing defective war munitions for the government. Oliver's opposition to organized labor has been continuous. A few years ago Organizer Gilmour of the Machinists' union was assaulted by gun men while in the vicinity of the Oliver plant, and this was the indirect cause of Gilmour's death.

Oliver has been known as a "fighter," but the jury's verdict has taken all the fight out of him and he pleads that the public "suspend judgment." Only recently he was elected president of the Knoxville board of commerce.

When his attorneys entered a plea of "not guilty" for their client, they asked the court for permission to change the plea within two weeks. Because this request is unusual where a defense of any kind is possible, other attorneys are asking if Oliver will plead insanity.

To this query the Knoxville Plain Dealer says:

"It's hard to tell which would be the most edifying news to go out to the world, that the Knoxville board of commerce had picked a crook for a president, or that they had elected a crazy man."

ACQUIT MOTORMAN.

Mineola, N. Y., April 12.—Edward Lewis, in charge of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company's wrecked train that killed 98 passengers last November, has been acquitted of manslaughter charges by a jury in the Nassau county supreme court.

The company refused to accept a decision by the national war labor board that a score of trade unionists be reinstated. It was found that the unionists had been victimized. A strike followed and Lewis, who had no experience as a motorman, was placed in charge of the train.

The division superintendent, who ordered Lewis to take charge of the train, was recently acquitted.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 12.—Typographical union No. 174 has signed a two-years' wage agreement with local newspaper and linotype shop proprietors. Wages are increased $4 a week the first year and an additional 50 cents a week will be paid the second year. The agreement is retroactive and dates back to the first of the year. The union has been conducting negotiations for four months, but because of the retroactive feature of the contract the printers lose nothing by the long-drawn-out negotiations.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Nashville, Tenn., April 12.—The house of representatives has passed a bill giving Tennessee women the right to vote in municipal elections and for presidential electors. Suffrage friends are hopeful that the state senate will take similar action.

Jefferson City, Mo., April 12.—The governor has signed a bill which permits women to vote at presidential elections.

FIGHTING NIGHT WORK.

Chicago, April 12.—Officers of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union have sent an address to every affiliate urging that formal demand for abolition of night work be made when wage scales for the year are presented on May 1.

WANT $1 AN HOUR.

Boston, April 12.—Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' union No. 72 has prepared a new wage contract which calls for $1 an hour, instead of the present 75-cent rate.

EMPLOYERS QUIBBLE.

Madison, Wis., April 12.—Metal trades employers in this city are quibbling over an award by a national war labor board umpire, and have asked the board to rehear the case, although they agreed to accept the umpire's award. Following are a few of the reasons advanced by one employer who expresses the views of his associates:

"Because the umpire selected was not chosen in accordance with the proclamation of the president providing that any such umpire should be chosen from a group of not less than 10 disinterested men. The umpire in this case was chosen from a smaller number.

"Outside union labor agitators came to this city and took charge of the case, despite the fact that this has always been an open shop."

These tricky employers are given this warning by Editor Evjue of the Capital Times:

"Let them beware! They are playing with dynamite. A new order has arrived. If they think that, simply because they have made millions, they can buy sentiment in this community with full paid ads, they are sadly mistaken. The artifice and suaveness of a corporation lawyer using words to build up a poor case are all too apparent. The way to meet the war labor board decision is to meet it, and not with words, but with deeds.

"Why not hang up a service flag now for allegiance to the government with the same sincerity that you hung up a service flag when your employes went to war. Or don't flags count where dollars are at stake?"

STRIKE STATISTICS.

Ottawa, Canada, April 12.—The Labor Gazette, issued by the Dominion government, prints interesting Canadian strike statistics for the year 1918. There were 191 strikes reported and of these 113, or 57.6 per cent, were won by the workers. But 41 strikes, or 20.9 per cent were won by the employers, and 10.7 per cent ended in compromise and the same percentage had an indefinite ending.

The value of direct negotiation between employer and employed is shown by the statement that 102 strikes, or 52 per cent, were settled by this method. Conciliation and mediation were successful in 34 strikes, or 17 per cent, while 21 cases, or about 10 per cent, were settled by arbitration.

Only four disputes were settled by boards of conciliation under the industrial disputes investigation act. This act is known as the Lemieux act.

LIVING COSTS GO UP.

Washington, April 12.—The bureau of labor statistics reports that food prices in the United States on December 15, 1918, were 2 per cent higher than on November 15, 1918.

Comparing December, 1918, with December, 1917, the combined increase of all articles was 19 per cent.

During the five-year period, December, 1913, to December, 1918, food prices advanced 79 per cent. Seven of the 17 articles increased 100 per cent or over; sugar, 100 per cent; ham, 101 per cent; pork chops, 104 per cent; corn meal, 106 per cent; flour, 109 per cent; lard, 116 per cent and bacon, 119 per cent. The remaining 10 articles all show an increase of 60 per cent or over.

WANT CHILDREN GUARDED.

Minneapolis, April 12.—At a meeting of the Minnesota state child labor committee it was declared that "patriotism and loyal sacrifice have been made the plea for exploitation of children in gainful occupations during the past year, even in Minnesota, where child labor laws were upheld under the strain of war conditions more strongly than was the case in most states. Now is the time for a general campaign of awakening of public interest against further letting down of the bars and for a rapid rebuilding of child welfare safeguards."

BUSINESS MEN COMPLAIN.

Biddeford, Me., April 12.—Business men in this city complain that they are on the verge of bankruptcy because of a textile strike. They have appointed a committee to interest the mill owners in the question of a 48-hour week, which the Textile Workers' union is demanding.

STEEL WORKERS' NEW CHIEF.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 12.—By a referendum vote M. F. Tighe has been elected president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers. The new executive was secretary-treasurer of the steel workers. He succeeds John Williams, who resigned the presidency.

WIRE MEN WANT MORE.

Albany, N. Y., April 12.—Electrical workers of this city have presented a new wage scale, which raises rates from [illegible] to [illegible] 1-2 cents an hour.